

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

at Whaddon Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, SG8 5RY.

on 8th July 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:	Chairman	N Strudwick
	Councillors	W Elbourn, D Townsend, J Hart, L Ginger & A Birch
	Members of the Public	Three
	County/District Councillor	S van de Ven
	Parish Clerk	A Culver

- 1. Apologies for absence** – J Hart gave her apologies.
- 2. Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 10th June 2024. These were signed and approved.
- 3. Receiving declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda** – none.
- 4. Co-option** – to consider the application for Parish Councillors. The Parish Council voted unanimously to co-op Ben Fairclough, who joined the meeting.
- 5. Reports from Clerk and Councillors** – verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings. SCDC had undertaken weedkilling along the roads and pavements in the village today, after a long absence due to SCDC policy.
- 6. Reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr S van de Ven spoke about the new coffee pod recycling unit now available in Thriplow and Cllr Strudwick asked if there was any indication of recycling blister packs being universally introduced. Cllr S van de Ven confirmed that she would investigate this.

The Parish Council discussed the report on the four-day week for all employees in SCDC, which had been published today. Cllr van de Ven felt that overall, it was a positive experiment to trail a more radical change to attempt to tackle local government low retention of employee rates.
- 7. Public participation** – A resident spoke about the recent grass cut on the verge opposite the turning into Bridge Street, and they felt it needed to be cut further back as it was a safety risk. It was suggested that this should be cut diagonally to increase visibility for motorists. It was agreed that Cllr's Townsend, Elbourn and Fairclough and a member of the Sustainable Whaddon group should meet and walk around the village and agree on the grass cutting details.

A resident asked Cllr van de Ven about the large potholes on the bridge in Meldreth which are very deep and dangerous. Cllr Van de ven agreed that these needed to be filled as soon as possible and she would report these as high priority.

A member of the public left at 8.05pm

- 8. Planning update - i) 24/02210/FUL** - Demolition of existing piggery and construction of 1 No. self-build dwelling and associated works. Pickering Farm Church Street Whaddon. This was approved by the Planning Committee.
- ii) 24/02293/PRIOR** - Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of a replacement single storey rear extension. 109 Meldreth Road Whaddon. This was approved by the Planning Committee.

9. Correspondence: noting receipt of significant items of correspondence – none.

10. Finance to approve:

- Staff wages and expenses – £492.61/£55.40
- Herts & Cambs Ground maintenance rec grass cutting – £102
- Scribe - £289.80

Cllr Townsend agreed to be an additional signatory for Unity Trust Bank, which the clerk will set up. It was also agreed that everyone could have a read only access to Scribe, the new accountancy package.

11. MVAS update – Cllr Strudwick reminded the Parish Council that the MVAS unit needs to have back up power on the A1198, due to the very high volume of traffic. The Parish Council discussed the need for the MVAS to collect data, the amount of data that was needed and what this would be used for. Cllr Birch asked the Parish Council would do with this information and it was felt it would illustrate the changes in traffic at different times and provide support for any additional changes to the junction.

12. Sustainable Whaddon update – seed exchange in the telephone kiosk on Meldreth Road.

The group proposed that the telephone kiosk on Meldreth Road could be used as a exchange point for plant seeds from residents' garden. Residents would be able to donate or take seeds during the spring to late autumn. This would be advertised in the Whaddon News and there would be a stall at the fete from Sustainable Whaddon to promote all ideas from the group. The kiosk would need shelves installing or a bookcase from Freecycle. The seed exchanged was **agreed** by all members of the Parish Council.

Whaddon News editor update – no updates.

13. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update – Cllr Birch requested that the Parish Council officially request the Chair of the Trust to attend Parish Council meetings for updates. Cllr Strudwick agreed do to this.

14. Village upkeep and maintenance – Cllr Ginger spoke of a request from horse riders in the village to install signage to reduce speeding. The Parish Council discussed if horse rider signs on the road were effective as evidence illustrates that motorists expect horse riders in rural areas and signs have little effect. It was agreed that the residents should be invited to attend the local Police meeting on July 28th with data evidence of anti-social drivers.

Cllr Birch asked about the trees halfway down Bridge Street which were overgrown, which were confirmed to belong to Cambridgeshire Highways. Cllr Townsend also

stated that the hedge along the footpath along Church Street should be cut down as it was also overgrown.

15. Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items - the village plan.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm